215. Desirability of regulating appointments in service by competetive examinations.

Mr. M. Narayana Panicker (Ampalapuzha) and Mr. C. P. Thomas, B. A., L. T., (Travancore and Cochin Christian Association, Kottayam) stated that at present there were no well-understood principles for the regulation of appointments in the public service and that it was necessary to introduce a system of competitive examinations for posts in the higher grades.

Reply.—There are rules in each department for regulating appointments. This is not a matter falling within the legitimate scope of the representations which may be made by the Popular Assembly. It is for Government to prescribe such tests or qualifications as they may deem necessary in the interests of public service.

216. Hours of attendance of judicial officers in courts.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai, B. A., B. L., (Trivandrum) said that parties, witnesses and legal practitioners were directed by judicial officers to be present at 11 A. M. in their courts, but many of them made it a point to attend office whenever they chose. This was a matter of real hardship for the removal of which some steps had to be taken. It was enough to compel their attendance at any stated hour, if they found it impossible to attend at 11 A. M. precisely.

Reply.—The present hours of attendance are from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M., and the existing rule has to be adhered to. If any instance of habitual unpunctuality is brought to the notice of the authorities, it will receive attention.

217. Rules for regulating the transfer and promotion of superior public servants.

Mr. Chithira Nal Tampuran of Vadakumkur, Vaikam (Nominated) was to have spoken on the subject. It was, however, withdrawn by him.

218. Transfer of public servants.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Ettumanur) suggested that no officer might be retained at a particular station for more than two years except at the special request of the people.

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Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Kalkulam), Mr. K. Padmanabhan Tampi (Taluk Association, Kalkulam) and Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (Eraniel) spoke on the undesirability of retaining executive and judicial officers in any station for more than three years.

Reply.—In the case of all public servants, it is desirable to leave them where they are, as long as they continue to do satisfactory work. This rule applies with special force to revenue officers. It is better that they know they will not be disturbed, provided they discharge their work efficiently and honestly. If they have to apprehend that they are liable to be transferred at any moment for no fault of theirs, they will take no interest in their work and public business will suffer in consequence. In the case of individual officers who harass the people or do not do their duties properly, their transfer will be made independently of the period of their stay at any station. This is what is now being done.

219. Raising of the age limit for admission to public service.

Mr. N. Kesavan Valiathan (Kartigapalli) represented that the present limit of 25 years pressed hard upon young men and that it would be desirable to raise it to 30, as was the rule before the passing of the Civil Service Regulations.

Reply.—This is not considered desirable. Exemption, however, is freely granted in deserving individual cases.

220. Reduction of the present number of officers and increase of pay to those who might be retained to give scope even for the most aspiring of officers.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, B. A., B. L., (Nayar Samajam, Quilon) in whose name this subject stood was absent.

Reply.—This subject cannot be allowed.

221. Giving higher appointments to qualified natives.

Mr. C. Padmanabha Pillai (Karunagapalli) said that preference should be given to the natives of the country who might be sufficiently qualified for higher places in the official ladder.

Reply.—In appointments and promotions, the claims of natives are being and will be considered relatively with those of others.

222. Necessity of Government calling for returns regarding (1) acquisitions of public servants and (2) appointments made by them, with the names, qualifications, &c., of those appointed.

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